



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL FISHERY CLOSED UNTIL JULY 1, 2002 IN THE SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE FOR VESSELS USING HOOK-AND-LINE GEAR**

The commercial hook-and-line fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed, effective 12:01 a.m., local time, March 23, 2002. NOAA Fisheries announced the closing of this fishery after projecting that landings would reach the quota (520,312 pounds) on March 22, 2002. The fishery will remain closed until July 1, 2002.

With this closure, the commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel is closed until July 1, 2002, in waters of the Gulf of Mexico western zone (Texas through Alabama) and eastern zone (Florida) from the U.S./Mexico boundary through the northern and southern Florida west coast subzones. The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast which from November 1 through March 31 extends south and west from a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary (25° 20.4' N. lat) to a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County boundary (26° 19.8' N. lat), i.e., the Gulf and Atlantic waters off Collier and Monroe counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast which lies between the Lee/Collier County boundary and a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County boundary (25° 48' N. lat.), i.e., Gulf waters off Collier County (See figures on reverse).

Except for a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat, during the closure no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for king mackerel has been issued may fish for Gulf group king mackerel in Federal waters of the closed zones or subzones. A person aboard a vessel that has a valid charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish may continue to retain king mackerel in or from the closed zone/subzone under the 2-fish daily bag limit, provided the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. Such vessels which hold a commercial king mackerel permit are considered to be operating as a charter vessel or headboat when they carry a passenger who pays a fee or when more than three persons are aboard, including operator and crew.

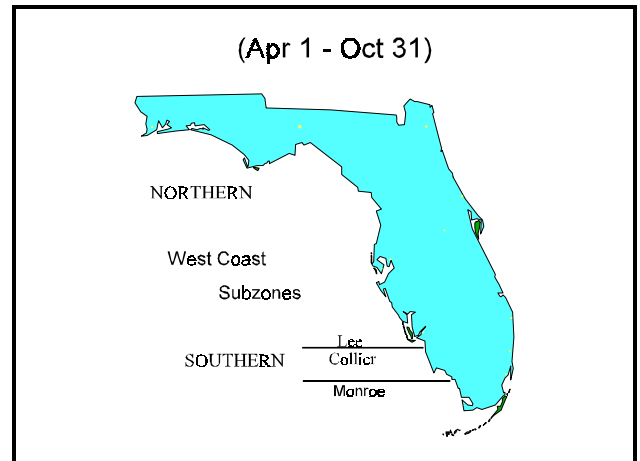
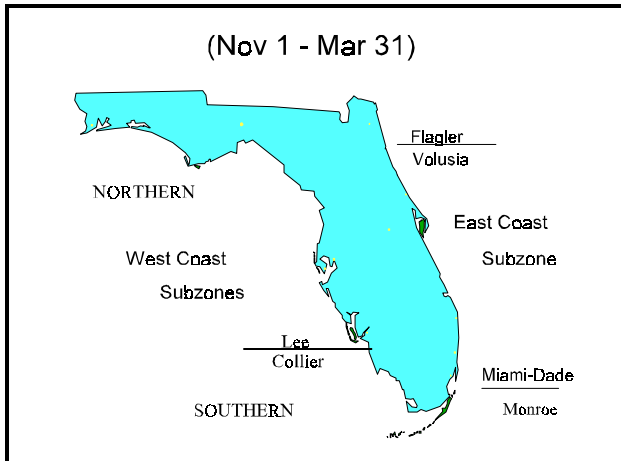
During the closure no king mackerel caught in the closed zones or subzones may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. This prohibition of sale does not apply to trade in king mackerel that were harvested and landed ashore, and bartered, traded, or sold before closure, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

This closure complies with the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) and is necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource. Regulations implemented under the FMP require closure of any segment of the commercial fishery when its quota is reached or is projected to be reached. Current information on the status of the commercial fisheries for Gulf group king mackerel is provided on the reverse side of this bulletin.

Quotas and closure provisions for mackerel fisheries were developed in the FMP jointly by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. In compliance with the FMP, an annual commercial quota of 3.26 million pounds was established for Gulf group king mackerel. This quota was divided into commercial quotas of 1.01 million pounds for the western zone and 2.25 million pounds for the eastern zone.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact our Office of Law Enforcement at 727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964. NOAA Fisheries, or the National Marine Fisheries Service, is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Additional information on southeastern fisheries is available from the Fishery Management Councils. The Web site and e-mail addresses for the Gulf of Mexico Council are <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org), and those for the South Atlantic Council are <http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov> and [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov), respectively.

## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: SEASONAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA SUBZONES



### GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2001/2002 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
<b>EASTERN ZONE (Florida)</b>	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone <sup>1</sup>	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish <sup>2</sup>	Nov 1, 2001 Feb 1, 2002	until until	Jan 31, 2002 Mar 31, 2002	Opened: Nov 1, 2001	<b>Open: 75 Fish/day</b>
<b>West Coast Subzones</b>	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2001 Nov 1, 2001	until until	168,750 lb Jul 1, 2002	Opens: Jul 1, 2002	<b>Closed: Nov 10, 2001</b>
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2001 Mar 11, 2002 Mar 23, 2002	until until until	390,234 lb Mar 23, 2002 Jul 1, 2002	Opened: Jul 1, 2001	<b>Closed: Mar 23, 2002</b>
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 22, 2002	until	520,312 lb	Opens: Jan 21, 2003	<b>Closed: Jan 28, 2002<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>WESTERN ZONE</b> (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,000	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2001 Nov 19, 2001	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 2002	Opens: Jul 1, 2002	<b>Closed: Nov 19, 2001</b>
Hook and Line							

<sup>1</sup> The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

<sup>2</sup> Trip limit increases from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1.

<sup>3</sup> Fishery is closed through 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003.